

WRITTEN OPINION OF THE  
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

International application No.

PCT/JP2004/010896

Box No. I Basis of the opinion

1. With regard to the language, this opinion has been established on the basis of the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

This opinion has been established on the basis of a translation from the original language into the following language \_\_\_\_\_, which is the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international search (under Rules 12.3 and 23.1(b)).

2. With regard to any nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence disclosed in the international application and necessary to the claimed invention, this opinion has been established on the basis of:

a. type of material

a sequence listing  
 table(s) related to the sequence listing

b. format of material

in written format  
 in computer readable form

c. time of filing/furnishing

contained in the international application as filed.  
 filed together with the international application in computer readable form.  
 furnished subsequently to this Authority for the purposes of search.

3.  In addition, in the case that more than one version or copy of a sequence listing and/or table relating thereto has been filed or furnished, the required statements that the information in the subsequent or additional copies is identical to that in the application as filed or does not go beyond the application as filed, as appropriate, were furnished.

4. Additional comments:

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**Box No. V Reasoned statement under Rule 43bis.1(a)(i) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement**

**1. Statement**

Novelty (N)	Claims	<b>1-10</b>	YES
	Claims		NO
Inventive step (IS)	Claims	<b>1-10</b>	YES
	Claims		NO
Industrial applicability (IA)	Claims	<b>1-10</b>	YES
	Claims		NO

**2. Citations and explanations**

D1:JP 11-116829 A (MITSUBISHI CHEMICAL CORPORATION)1999.04.27

D2:JP 11-049971 A (MITSUBISHI CHEMICAL CORPORATION)1999.02.23

D3:JP 10-298442 A (MITSUBISHI CHEMICAL CORPORATION)1998.11.10

D4:JP 11-148023 A (MITSUBISHI CHEMICAL CORPORATION)1999.06.02

D5:JP 01-005546 A (LION CORPORATION) 1989.01.10

D6:JP 60-158861 A (NIPPON SHOKUBAI CO LTD)1985.08.20

D7:JP 11-241030 A (NIPPON SHOKUBAI CO LTD)1999.09.07

D8:JP 02-041155 A (NIPPON SHOKUBAI CO LTD)1990.02.09

The subject matters of claim 1-10 do not appear to be novel with respect to D1. D1 discloses a water-absorbent resin composition comprising absorbent resin, complex oxide hydrate containing zinc and silicon, or zinc and aluminum, and a plant component.

The subject matters of claim 1-5,7-10 do not appear to be novel with respect to D2-D5.

D2-D5 disclose a water-absorbent resin composition comprising absorbent resin and complex oxide hydrate containing zinc and silicon, or zinc.

The subject matter of claim 6 does not appear to involve an inventive step in view of D2-D8.

D6-D8 disclose a water-absorbent resin composition comprising absorbent resin and a plant component.

The inventions disclosed in D2-D8 share the problem in the deodorant property. The person skilled in the art would easily conceive the idea of applying the technical feature 'a plant component' employed in D6-D8 to the invention disclosed in D2-D5 to solve that problem.

Applicant : Hiroko Ueda et al.  
Serial No. : To Be Assigned  
Filed : Herewith  
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Attorney's Docket No.: 08917-111US1 / F 04-037PCT/US/MH

REMARKS

The above amendment to the specification merely adds a cross-reference to related applications.

Applicants have also amended claims 3-7 and added new claims 11-22 to remove multiple dependencies. Support for the new claims can be found in the original claims. More specifically, claim 11 is a subset of original claim 3, claims 12-14 are subsets of original claim 4, claims 15-21 are subsets of original claim 5, and claim 22 is a subset of original claim 8. No new matter has been introduced by the amendments.

Following entry of this amendment, claims 1-21 will be pending. Applicants ask that all claims be examined in view of the amendment to the claims.

Please apply any other charges to deposit account 06-1050, referencing Attorney Docket No. 08917-111US1.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 1-20-06

*Y. Rocky Tsao*  
Y. Rocky Tsao  
Reg. No. 34,053

Fish & Richardson P.C.  
225 Franklin Street  
Boston, MA 02110  
Telephone: (617) 542-5070  
Facsimile: (617) 542-8906  
21247171.doc